

Empowering Dharma Wanita Handicraft Program Participants Through Flexible and Inclusive Learning Community

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ABSTRACT

Every day the amount of waste is seen to be increasing, waste is the residual material or product that is no longer used as a consumption or production item if the waste is directly disposed of without any prior treatment, it will become garbage. directly disposed of without any treatment first will become garbage, for this reason, reducing waste can be done using the 3Rs: reduce, reuse, recycle, and recycle. For this reason, reducing waste can be done using the 3Rs: reduce, reuse, and recycle. The purpose of the socialization of students at Dharma Wanita to reuse waste to make items that can be reused can contribute to the can contribute to the decrease of environmental pollution, produce handicraft products, fostering a prosperous entrepreneurial community in an effort to be self-reliant. Using creativity to turn waste into handicrafts is seen as a sufficient solution with marketability and the potential to produce visually appealing products. produce visually appealing products. The handicraft program became one of the efforts in developing the skills and economy of participants especially for the Dharma Wanita members, however, it is often challenging to provide a flexible and inclusive approach to improving the flexible and inclusive approach to improving the skills and well-being of participants in the Dharma Wanita

handicraft program. This study aims to evaluate effectiveness and impact of the Dharma Wanita handicraft program implemented through a flexible and inclusive learning community. implemented through a flexible and inclusive learning community may be a useful tactic for improving a useful tactic to improve the skills and wellbeing of Dharma Wanita members through a handicraft program. The implication of this research is the importance of adopting an approach that is responsive to the needs and members' needs and characteristics in designing and implementing flexible and inclusive learning programs. flexible and inclusive learning programs, with this approach handicraft program participants can feel more empowered and motivated because they have access to the resources that they need.

Keywords: Inclusive, Craft, Flexible

INTRODUCTION

Empowering women through handicrafts has been an important focus for Dharma Wanita, the organization recognizes that such skills not only provide additional economic opportunities but also strengthen cultural identity, however challenges such as time constraints, access to education, and the diverse backgrounds of participants require a flexible and inclusive approach to the learning process. Wives whose spouses are employees of other organizations or civil servants can join Dharma Wanita, the organization is a women's group that serves as a companion and support system for wives employed by the government, its main goal is to increase the emphasis of employee wives in assisting their husbands. In addition to advocating for women's equality with men in the workplace and other areas, women's empowerment through Dharma Wanita also upholds the role of their spouses as members of the government apparatus and public servants. The activities

carried out by Dharma Wanita are very innovative and varied, including introducing individuals or groups of MSMEs, after which the members receive training on how to revitalize the family economy with various skills so that it will benefit housewives who spearhead the family business and the family business from the side that supports it. The existence of Dharma Wanita demonstrates women's economic prowess, and the vitality of women's groups such as Dharma Wanita is a reflection of women's involvement in maximizing women's empowerment. Women's empowerment is the process of increasing women's ability to supervise, participate, and have more authority in decision-making so that men and women are treated equally. Handicraft programs have become a strategy for empowering women, particularly Dharma Wanita members, by not only providing practical skills training but also playing an important role in improving their economic well-being and boosting their self-confidence. However, significant challenges arise in ensuring that such programs are inclusive of all community members including those with limited time, mobility, and diverse skills. Traditional approaches to education and training have not been successful in terms of inclusivity and flexibility, prompting the exploration of alternative learning models that can provide an environment that is responsive to individual needs and characteristics, one interesting approach is the flexible and inclusive learning community approach. By taking a closer look at the dynamics of interactions that occur between participants, teachers and the learning environment created by the program to gain a deeper understanding of how programs can be improved to achieve greater inclusivity and more significant impact. While the range of craft programs offered by Dharma Wanita varies depending on the references, skills and needs of the members as well as the resources available in each unit or branch of the organization, some of the more common types of craft programs

offered by Dharma Wanita include: crafts made from recycled materials, traditional handicrafts, clay, sewing and so on. These programs are usually organized in the form of workshops or social service activities where participants can learn, practice, and create together. The purpose of these programs is to empower Dharma Wanita members by increasing the sense of togetherness and solidarity among them.

RESEARCH METHODS

Participatory observation and in-depth interview methods are used in this qualitative research methodology to collect data to gain a deeper understanding of how Dharma Wanita members are involved in the handicraft program in Serang city and there is an inductive flow. Inductive flow itself aims or intends to be the beginning of qualitative descriptive research by examining explanatory events that will draw a line with the conclusion of the research process of the event. The results show that a flexible and inclusive learning community approach is effective in improving participants' skills and well-being. The flexibility of time and location and an approach that respects the diversity of participants' abilities and backgrounds encourages active participation and ownership of the program. This research shows that adopting a flexible and inclusive learning community approach can be an effective strategy in empowering participants of the Dharma Wanita handicraft program. The implication of this research is the importance of paying attention to the diversity of participants and providing space for active participation in designing and implementing learning programs. The next steps involve developing a model approach that can be adopted by similar organizations to increase the effectiveness and impact of similar programs across different contexts. The author used interviews as a technique to collect data directly and

indirectly to one of the Dharma Wanita managers. The first interview was conducted directly at Sultan Ageng Tirtayasa University by meeting Mrs. Wiwin, but in the first interview session the data generated did not meet the findings to be raised by the authors, so the authors decided to contact Mrs. Wiwin again to meet the completeness of the data needed.

The following are several stages of indirect interviews conducted by the author to research and complete the data needed:

1. Prepare interview instruments in the form of appropriate questions to fulfill the missing data.
2. Contacting targets that match the criteria to be interviewed by the organizer or those directly concerned with Dharma Wanita).
3. Determining the interview schedule via whatsapp, knowing that the Dharma Wanita organizer has other activities.
4. Provide a list of questions that have been prepared and in accordance with the research title.
5. Summarizing the results of the interview from the answers given by the Dharma Wanita manager.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result

As a community organization, Dharma Wanita supports the wives of civil servants in various fields, including socio-cultural, educational, and economic. The overall goal of this women's empowerment group is to enhance the resources of each member in order to better themselves and their families. Dharma Wanita has a primary focus on creating a flexible and inclusive learning community that enables active participation and the development of

learning skills among its members with the aim of improving the economic independence and social position of women as well as involving collaboration with various parties to achieve broader social and cultural goals. Based on the activities to conduct the handicraft program, it is expected to produce several criteria for participants, such as

1. Improved skills and knowledge: Participants experience a significant increase in handicraft skills and business knowledge that can help in developing independent businesses.
2. Economic independence: The program succeeded in increasing the economic independence of participants who were able to create market-competitive products and earn additional income.
3. Inclusiveness and Flexibility: The program takes a flexible and inclusive learning community approach that allows various groups including housewives and working women to participate without being burdened by rigid time and place to increase member participation and involvement.
4. Social empowerment: In addition to improving the economy, this program can also have a positive impact on social empowerment as participants feel more confident and empowered in their community.
5. Collaboration and support: The success of the program is supported by collaboration with various parties including the government, NGOs and local communities who provide additional resources and training.

The Dharma Wanita group wants to see the potential of the community developed, and that is why they have this program, the result of the formulation of the desired goal is to develop the quality of human resources of members on the utilization of unused/waste goods in creating handicrafts that have selling and aesthetic value. The program began by identifying the needs and preferences of participants through the interview stage, based on

the data obtained the learning materials were adjusted to be relevant and interesting. The main activities carried out include:

1. Handicraft skills training: participants are taught various skills such as sewing, knitting, and making accessories, this training is conducted in weekly sessions either in person or through video tutorials.
2. Collaborative projects: participants are grouped to work on a craft project together, which helps build teamwork skills and increase the sense of solidarity between fellow members.
3. Mentoring and support: each participant is given access to a mentor who can help assist them through technical challenges and and provide guidance.

Through this program participants experienced significant improvements in their handicraft skills as measured through pre and post training assessments, some participants also began to generate additional income through the sale of their handicraft products, and there was an increase in participants' self-confidence and communication skills.

The socialization that researchers do intends to provide a basic understanding of opening a business through the sale of handicrafts to become a side business of Dharma Wanita members, the meaning of this socialization is to do the goal equation and from the socialization activities carried out, this activity can create communication that correlates with the community, increase understanding in the community related to the empowerment program carried out, this socialization can determine the community's interest in the handicraft business from the socialization carried out Dharma Wanita members can be actively involved in the community empowerment program. Socialization is carried out with several stages, namely: (1) holding a meeting with one part of Dharma Wanita to ask permission to conduct a socialization program, (2)

presenting Dharma Wanita members who are the main targets to convey the purpose and objectives of the empowerment program, (3) implementing a socialization program that takes place at Dharma Wanita Persatuan Serang Regency on 28 May 2024 to invite members to actively participate in the socialization program carried out.

Monitoring and evaluation activities are carried out to ensure the coherence of the process and achievements in accordance with the objectives set, evaluation is carried out on the quality of the products produced including the level of thread thickness, stitch density, stitch strength, and product success, while monitoring is carried out on the number of products successfully produced in the program.

Discussion

A member of Dharma Wanita is expected to uphold the integrity of her husband as a civil servant. Members Dharma Wanita members also actively participate in social tasks where these tasks are related to Dharma Wanita's mission to serve the community. Thus, Dharma Wanita members can further improve their ability and capacity to be better able to serve the community and foster a positive reputation. The purpose and The main functions of Dharma Wanita are as follows the following: to assist members in strengthen unity and integrity, expand knowledge and skills, forming cooperative partnerships with other parties, and increasing the sense of social responsibility. One of the responsibilities of responsibility of Dharma Wanita is to provide mental and spiritual assistance to its its members. From the observations obtained at Dharma Wanita routinely conducts several programs to train and improve the quality of its members, such as:

1. Dharma Wanita members attend coordination meetings on a regular basis, where where they receive counseling on various matters such as social socio-cultural, educational, economic as well as hot topics in the community. Every meeting attended attended there is information to information to increase knowledge refers to activeness of members, information in the form of counseling or news between fellow members.
2. The meeting that was held discussed about the duties of Dhawma Wanita members' duties related to community activities. Periodic counseling sessions are conducted on practical issues of significant practical issues with the aim of improving quality of participants.
3. The WhatsApp group was created because members of Dharma Wanita members usually use social media groups to provide material that cannot be discussed in person and need to be shared as quickly as possible for efficiency.

With good communication Dharma Wanita can function effectively in achieve its organizational goals well, Dharma Wanita often organizes various social, educational and cultural activities through effective communication. Effective communication can ensure all members are aware of their roles and responsibilities their roles and responsibilities as well as a clear schedule of activities and program clearly so that the program can run programs run smoothly and successfully. Communication the secret to success in many aspects of life, such as opening and running handicraft business, good communication builds strong relationships with customers. Through the socialization program that conducted in order to help members of Dharma Wanita members to be skillful in making crafts as a solution to earn additional income. The first step in starting a business is to create a

concept that can be implemented and seen to be successful, and success always starts with a simple business, which the researcher took to be handicrafts. handicraft. At this socialization guide about strategies for selling handicraft items that developed with the help of members of Dharma Wanita members. Digital marketing is a strategy that is useful for product promotion that utilizes information technology to reach a wider market share both locally and globally through online platforms. online platform. From the socialization activities carried out produced works made from crochetedolls, pencil boxes, brooches, key chains, wallets, key chains, wallets, and others. Handicraft products handicraft products are often valued because they have high quality of the results of careful manufacturing meticulously, besides that handknitted products are are more environmentally friendly than mass-produced products. To start a handicraft business allows Dharma members to work from home and organize their work schedule as desired with providing great time flexibility, the program also strengthens solidarity and networking among Dharma Wanita membersthrough an inclusive and flexible learning community flexible learning community can create an environment that support members to share knowledge and experience. By improving skills, Dharma Wanita members members get a great opportunity to generate additional income through sales of handicraft products products in the local market or online, Dharma Wanita members can develop small businesses or participate in other economic activities with confidence with new skills that can increase self-reliance.

CONCLUSIONS

Dharma Wanita is one of the activists in various fields of community activities in the surrounding environment according to the appropriate

provisions and benefits, the researcher hopes that the output can be an example and motivation for Dharma Wanita members. This study looks at the importance of a flexible and inclusive learning community approach to empowering participants in the Dharma Wanita handicraft program. The results show that this approach is effective for honing handicraft skills, as well as increasing self-confidence and ownership of the products produced. Flexible schedules allow members with different background conditions and limitations to create an inclusive and supportive environment. The learning community approach has been shown to build strong social relationships between members, create a space to share knowledge and experiences, and support skills development. This has impacted not only on craft skills but also on the social and emotional aspects of Dharma Wanita members. It is important for institutions to consider an inclusive and flexible approach when delivering handicraft programs as it not only increases the effectiveness of the program, but also offers social inclusion and self-reliance among members which has a wider positive impact in the community.

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